

Amendments to the Claims:

Please add new claims 35-37 and amend claims 1, 3, 21, 22, 25-27 and 29.

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently amended) A method of specifically detecting the *Bacillus anthracis* surface array protein SEQ ID NO:1 in a test sample, the method comprising:
contacting a test sample with a first antibody that specifically binds to *Bacillus anthracis* surface array protein as set forth in SEQ ID NO:1, wherein the first antibody forms a complex with the surface array protein but does not form a complex with protein from non-anthraxis ~~other~~ *Bacillus* species present in the test sample; and

detecting the complex with a labeled second antibody that binds to the complex, wherein the detection of the complex is indicative of the presence of *Bacillus anthracis* in the test sample.

2. (Canceled)

2 ~~3~~. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the *B. anthracis* ~~strain~~ present in the test sample is encapsulated.

4. (Canceled)

3 ~~5~~. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the first or second antibody is a recombinantly produced antibody.

4 ~~6~~. (Previously presented) The method of claim ³~~5~~, wherein the first or second antibody is a recombinantly produced polyclonal antibody.

5 ~~7~~. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the first or second antibody is a monoclonal antibody.

⁶ ~~8.~~ (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the test sample is collected from a site of suspected or threatened anthrax contamination.

⁷ ~~9.~~ (Original) The method of claim ⁶~~8~~, wherein the test sample is collected using a cyclonic collection device.

⁸ ~~10.~~ (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the test sample is not cultured prior to contacting with the first antibody.

⁹ ~~11.~~ (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the first antibody is immobilized on a solid support.

¹⁰ ~~12.~~ (Original) The method of claim ⁹~~11~~, wherein the solid support is a microtiter dish.

¹¹ ~~13.~~ (Previously presented) The method of claim ⁹~~11~~, wherein the first antibody is immobilized on the solid support prior to contacting the first antibody with the test sample.

¹² ~~14.~~ (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the method can detect *B. anthracis* at concentrations as low as about 10,000 cfu/ml.

¹³ ~~15.~~ (Original) The method of claim ¹²~~14~~, wherein the method can detect *B. anthracis* at concentrations as low as about 5,000 cfu/ml.

¹⁴ ~~16.~~ (Original) The method of claim ¹³~~15~~, wherein the method can detect *B. anthracis* at concentrations as low as about 1,800 cfu/ml.

17-18. (Canceled)

¹⁵ ~~19.~~ (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the second antibody binds to a different epitope of the surface array protein than does the first antibody.

20. (Canceled)

¹⁶ ~~21.~~ (Currently Amended) The method of claim ~~1~~ ²⁰, wherein the label of the labeled second antibody detectable label is selected from the group consisting of a radioactive label, a fluorophore, a dye, an enzyme, and a chemiluminescent label.

¹⁷ ~~22.~~ (Currently amended) A kit for detecting the presence or absence of *Bacillus anthracis* in a sample, the kit comprising:

a first antibody that specifically binds to the surface array protein set forth in SEQ ID NO:1 but does not bind to protein from non-anthraxis ~~other~~ *Bacillus* species; and
a label.

¹⁸ ~~23.~~ (Original) The kit of claim 22, wherein the solid support is a microtiter dish.

24. (Canceled)

¹⁹ ~~25.~~ (Currently amended) The kit of claim ~~22~~ ³³, wherein the first ~~or second~~ antibody is a recombinant polyclonal antibody.

²⁰ ~~26.~~ (Currently amended) The kit of claim ~~22~~ ³³, wherein the first ~~or second~~ antibody is a monoclonal antibody.

²¹ ~~27.~~ (Currently amended) The kit of claim ~~22~~ ³³, wherein the first ~~or second~~ antibody is a mixture of monoclonal and polyclonal antibody preparations.

²² ~~28.~~ (Original) The kit of claim ~~22~~ ¹⁷, wherein the kit further comprises written instructions for using the kit to determine whether a test sample contains *B. anthracis*.

²³ ~~29.~~ (Currently amended) The kit according to claim ~~22~~ ¹⁷, wherein the kit further comprises a positive control that comprises a polypeptide that comprises an antigenic determinant of a *B. anthracis* surface array protein, wherein the antigenic determinant binds to said first antibody.

30-32. (Canceled.)

¹⁷
~~24~~ ~~33~~. (Previously presented) The kit of claim ~~22~~, wherein the kit further comprises a second antibody which binds the surface array protein as set forth in SEQ ID NO:1.

¹⁷
~~25~~ ~~34~~. (Previously presented) The kit of claim ~~22~~, wherein the first antibody is immobilized on a solid support.

²⁴
~~26~~ ~~35~~. (New) The kit of claim ~~33~~, wherein the second antibody is a recombinant polyclonal antibody.

²⁴
~~27~~ ~~36~~. (New) The kit of claim ~~33~~, wherein the second antibody is a monoclonal antibody.

²⁴
~~28~~ ~~37~~. (New) The kit of claim ~~33~~, wherein the second antibody is a mixture of monoclonal and polyclonal antibody preparations.